



# Arizona Department of Public Safety

**- For Immediate Release -**

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

## Arizona Department of Public Safety Officer makes traffic stop and discovers more than \$300,000 in cash

On February 23<sup>rd</sup> just after 8 p.m. an Arizona Department of Public Safety Officer made a traffic stop on eastbound I-10 at milepost 60 (just inside the Arizona border). The vehicle, a 2008 Ford Mustang, was stopped for no display of rear tail lights. The officer noticed a strong smell of Marijuana. A subsequent search lead to the discovery of a suitcase full of U.S. Currency. The total amount in the suitcase was \$319,065.68. The driver said only \$2,500 was hers and claimed not to know where the other money came from. Only trace amounts of marijuana was found.

The case was turned over to Detectives with the La Paz County Narcotics Task Force.

Driver: Karen Anderson, 39, foreign national of Belize

She was booked into the La Paz County Jail for Money Laundering

*The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.*

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